

THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
28 May 1982

CIA is Walloped on the Hill

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington (News Bureau)—Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.), a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, yesterday accused CIA professionals of bungling one intelligence estimate after another over the last six years.

"On their watch, this country has suffered shock after shock, surprise after unpleasant surprise," Wallop told a committee hearing in the toughest critique of CIA intelligence-gathering capabilities by a committee member in years.

The occasion for Wallop's detailed blast at the CIA was a rare public session of the committee to consider the nomination of career CIA official John McMahon as deputy director of the agency, replacing Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, a congressional favorite, who is retiring. The committee voted unanimously to recommend McMahon's confirmation by the full Senate.

Wallop said that CIA professionals—of whom McMahon is one—"don't have a record they can be proud of," and he cited these examples:

- The American people has been "surprised by the size, scope and purpose of the Soviet military buildup" because of inaccurate intelligence.

- The CIA bungled the so-called Shadrin case, he charged. Nicholas Shadrin was a Soviet Navy captain who defected to the U.S. but was sent to Vienna seven years ago by the FBI and the CIA as a double agent to meet with Soviet spies. Shadrin disappeared after meeting with the Soviets and it was later learned that the CIA had not provided any surveillance of the meeting.

- CIA covert action proposals Wallop has seen "lead me above all to ask, so what? The agency may be able to carry them out, but do they make a difference?"

- The intelligence bureaucracy "appears to be digging its heels in against improving its performance," he said.

McMahon, who has been a CIA operative, both on the overt and covert side, since graduating from Holy Cross College in 1951, conceded that agency intelligence estimates "may have been wrong at times." He denied that misinformation forwarded to the White House was based on any CIA desire to "skew" the facts to fit the political beliefs of incumbent administrations.



John McMahon before Senate committee looking into his nomination as deputy director of the CIA.